

Applicants: J. Paris et al.
Serial No.: 09/423,109
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Amendments to the claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains 17 β -estradiol.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains estradiol valerate.

5-17. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains from 0.5 to 1.5 mg of free estradiol per daily dose.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, in which the composition contains from 1.5 to 2 mg of estradiol ester per daily dose.

9-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A hormonal replacement therapy method ~~[[of]]~~ for treating an estrogen deficient, menopausal woman comprising continuously orally administering daily without interruption to such menopausal woman a composition containing from 0.5 to 1.5 mg of free estradiol or 1.5 to 2 mg of an estradiol ester, and from

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0.625 to 1.25 mg of nomegestrol acetate per daily dose so as to induce and maintain endometrium atrophy without bleeding.

19-30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition in oral administrable form comprising, in combination, from 0.5 to 1.5 mg of free estradiol or 1.5 to 2 mg of an esterified estradiol and from 0.625 to 1.25 mg of nomegestrol acetate.

32. (canceled)

33. (withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein growth of uterine mucosa is prevented and atrophy of the endometrium is induced without inducing a secretory transformation of the endometrium in menopausal women.

34. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, in which the composition contains 17 β -estradiol.

35. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, in which the composition contains estradiol valerate.

36. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, in which the composition contains from 0.5 to 1.5 mg of the free estradiol per daily dose.

37. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, in which the composition contains from 1.5 to 2 mg of the estradiol ester per daily dose.